

A Resolution

NO. _____

AMENDING THE COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE TO ADD A NEW SECTION, SECTION 5.4.7, TO ADDRESS RULES OF CONDUCT AND TO REVISE SECTION 5.4.6 TO LIMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING THE CITIZEN PRESENTATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TO THREE MINUTES

WHEREAS, Chapter 3, Section of the City Charter provides that the City Council shall determine the rules of procedure for its meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted its rules of procedure on January 8, 1960 and have amended them from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to further amend its current rules of procedure as set forth herein to add a new section to address rules of conduct for citizen presentations and to limit public comments during the citizen presentations portion of the City Council agenda to three minutes as more specifically set out in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments were discussed at the City Council Work Session on August 1, 2017; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS:

1. The Rules of Procedure, City Council of Fort Worth (adopted January 8, 1960, as amended) are hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit "A".
2. The Resolution shall take effect on August 15, 2017.
3. The City Secretary and the City Attorney are directed to prepare a new printing of the Rules of Procedure, as amended, and distribute the same to the City Council, the City Manager and other city staff as deemed appropriate and make said amended rules available to the public.

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2017.

ATTEST:

By: _____
Mary Kayser, City Secretary



Exhibit “A”

Add language to 5.4.6 Citizen Presentations:

Persons wishing to address the City Council about an item that is not otherwise posted on the City Council Meeting agenda and who have completed a speaker’s card at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the City Council Meeting will be permitted to speak under the agenda item entitled “Citizen Presentations.” The Chairman shall have the discretion to call for all or a portion of the citizen presentations to be made under that agenda item earlier or later in the meeting. Responses to a citizen’s presentation by the City Council and staff shall be in accordance with Texas Open Meetings Act requirements. If a citizen or City Council member raises a subject that has not been included in the public notice for the City Council Meeting, a response may consist only of a statement of specific factual information or a recitation of existing policy. Any further discussion of the subject shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future meeting for deliberation or decision. Presentations by individuals shall be limited to three minutes. At the discretion of the Chairman, this limit may be extended. Group Presentations as described in 5.4.4 shall not be allowed during the Citizen Presentation portion of the City Council agenda.

Add a new section; 5.4.7 Rules of Conduct:

The city council is committed to conducting its business in a courteous, reasonable, and respectful manner. Any member of the public attending city council meetings shall observe the same rules of propriety, decorum and good conduct applicable to members of the city council. Members of the public desiring to address the Council shall be recognized by the Presiding Officer and shall state his or her name and city of residence in an audible tone for the record and shall limit his or her remarks to the topic under discussion

Every person desiring to speak shall address the entire Council and shall not single out a member of the Council, the audience or a staff member. Speakers shall not make personal attacks. Any person making personal, impertinent, profane or slanderous remarks or who becomes loud, boisterous or disruptive while addressing the city council or while attending the city council meeting shall be removed from the room if is so directed by the Presiding Officer and the person shall be barred from further audience before the city council during that session of the city council.

Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stamping of feet, whistles, yells, and similar demonstrations shall not be permitted by the Presiding Officer. Demonstrations, the carrying of signs or placards, or other activities which disturb the peace and good order of the meeting shall not be permitted in the council chambers. Offenders may be removed from the room at the direction of the Presiding Officer.

Delete the following repetitive language from 4.3:

Demonstrations, the carrying of signs or placards, or other activities which disturb the peace and good order of the meeting shall not be permitted in the council chambers